



COLLEGE OF SOCIAL SCIENCES

HAWAII ENERGY POLICY FORUM

UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT MĀNOA

Testimony of Sharon Moriwaki
Co-Chair, Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

Hawaii Energy Policy Forum

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Joseph Boivin, Hawai'i Gas
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Kyle Datta, Ulupono Initiative
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Mark Glick, State Energy Office, DBEDT
Justin Gruenstein, City & Co. of Honolulu
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Michael Hamnett, Research Corp. of the UH
Rachel James, Ofc of US Rep. Tulsi Gabbard
Jim Kelly, Kaua'i Island Utility Cooperative
Darren Kimura, Energy Industries
Kelly King, Sustainable Biodiesel Alliance
Rep Chris Lee, HI House of Representatives
Gladys Marrone, Building Industry Assn of HI
Doug McLeod, Maui County
Stephen Meder, UH Facilities and Planning
Lauren Montez-Hernandez, Ofc of Sen Mazie Hirono
Sharon Moriwaki, UH So. Sci. Public Policy Ctr
Ron Nelson, U.S. Defense Energy Support Center
Tim O'Connell, U.S. Dept of Agriculture
Jeffrey Ono, Division of Consumer Advocacy, DCCA
Darren Pai, Hawaiian Electric Company
Melissa Pavlicek, Hawaii Public Policy Advocates
Randy Perreira, HI Government Employees Assn
Rick Rocheleau, UH HI Natural Energy Institute
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Riley Saito, SunPower Systems Corp
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Ben Sullivan, Kaua'i County
Lance Tanaka, Hawaii Independent Energy
Maria Tome, Public Utilities Commission
Ah Linn Yamane, HI Government Employees Assn

Before the
Senate Committees on Energy and Environment & Agriculture
Thursday, February 5, 2015 at 3:15pm in Conference Room 225

IN SUPPORT OF SB359 Relating to the Environmental Response, Energy, and Food Security Tax

I am Sharon Moriwaki, co-chair of the Hawaii Energy Policy Forum (Forum). The Forum, created in 2002, is comprised of 46 representatives from Hawaii's electric utilities, oil and natural gas suppliers, environmental and community groups, renewable energy industry, and federal, state and local government, including representatives from the neighbor islands. Our vision and mission, and comprehensive "10 Point Action Plan" serves as a guide to move Hawaii toward its preferred energy goals and our support for this bill.

SB359 proposes amendments to *Section 243-3.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes* (the environmental response, energy, and food security tax ("EREFS tax") collected on petroleum products) to: (1) increase the allocations to the environmental response revolving fund ("environmental fund"), the energy security special fund ("energy fund"), and the agricultural development and food security special fund ("agriculture fund"); and (2) make the agriculture fund and allocations of the EREFS tax permanent.

The Forum supports this measure that would allocate the entire EREFS tax to be used for its intended purposes, and make those allocations permanent.

In passing Act 73, SLH 2010, Legislature found "that it is in the best interests of Hawaii's people to build the capacity we need to become self-sufficient in our energy and food needs and to protect the health and function of our environment." It also found "that undertaking the important task of energy and food security requires a long-term commitment and the investment of substantial financial resources."

While the legislature unambiguously declared the purposes for imposing the tax, most of the money collected has not gone to fulfill them. Sixty cents of every \$1.05 collected has gone to the State's general fund.

From leaking fuel tanks and crop pests, to the explosion of rooftop PV systems, recent events have highlighted the critical need to invest in the protection of our environment and security and sustainability of our food and energy resources. We must do all we can to get things right.

Current EREFS tax allocations have helped us make big strides, including the ongoing operation of some offices, solution-focused projects are necessary to make real progress. This bill would provide additional investment to support projects that are needed to develop, demonstrate and help bring to market technologies and initiatives that will help Hawaii achieve its clean energy goals.

The Forum supports SB359, and respectfully urges passage of the bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

This testimony reflects the position of the Forum as a whole and not necessarily of the individual Forum members or their organizations.

Hawai'i Green Growth

**Testimony of Hawai'i Green Growth
In Support of SB 359 Relating to the Environmental Response, Energy and Food Security Tax
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
10 February 2015, 3:00pm, Room 225**

Audrey Newman
Hawai'i Green Growth
P.O. Box 535 Ho'olehua, Hawai'i 96729

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Hawai'i Green Growth is a voluntary partnership of more than 70 state, county, federal, business, and non-governmental leaders from energy, food production, natural resources, waste reduction, planning, green jobs, and other sectors who have come together to support a shared statewide commitment and tangible actions toward sustainability and a model green economy.

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Green, and Members of the Committee:

Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG) strongly supports SB359 which increases the Environmental Response, Energy and Food Security Tax allocations for strategic, long-term funding to support critical environmental preparedness and response and solid waste reduction (\$0.15), clean energy transformation (\$0.40), food security programs (\$0.40), and Hawai'i Natural Energy Institute (\$0.10).

The Environmental Response, Energy and Food Security Tax is critical to maintain basic and existing functions of the Department of Health's emergency environmental response programs. It also provides important, ongoing support for the development and implementation of actions that will achieve the Hawai'i Clean Energy Initiative's goal to reduce the State's dependence on imported fossil fuels by 70% in 2030, and the Department of Agriculture programs aimed to at least double local food production by 2030.

SB539 will help advance action on the *Aloha+ Challenge: A Culture of Sustainability – He Nohona 'Ae'olia*, a joint leadership commitment to achieve six sustainability targets by 2030 in the areas of clean energy, local food production, natural resource management, solid waste reduction, smart growth and climate resilience, green jobs and education. The *Aloha+ Challenge* was unanimously endorsed by the 2014 Legislature (SCR 69) and signed by Hawai'i's Governor, Mayors and Office of Hawaiian Affairs. It was also internationally recognized as a model of integrated sustainability at the UN Conference on Small Island Developing States in Samoa.

We ask you to support this bill to make critical investments that will allow these sectors to achieve their goals in increasing Hawai'i's self-sufficiency and provide reliable funding to ensure Hawai'i is ready to respond to environmental emergencies.

Mahalo,



Audrey Newman

Senior Advisor, Hawai'i Green Growth (HGG)

Bringing leaders together to achieve sustainability in Hawai'i & be a model for a green economy

<http://www.hawaiigreengrowth.org>